The Conference covered a wide range of topics on safety, health and environment including policy legislation, chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response etc. The main recommendations/conclusions of the Conference are:

(i) APOSHO standards for Occupational Safety and Health should be developed and adopted by the member Countries.

(ii) There should be net working arrangements at different levels for information sharing.

(iii) Comprehensive guidelines for environment care may be developed and circulated and national policies and laws need to be reviewed with a view to introducing a comprehensive legislation.

(iv) Trade Unions should be involved and taken into confidence at the planning stage itself to ensure harmony and excellent results in the field of safety.

Proposal for Marking Ex-Factory Price on Commodities

698. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering/examining the feasibility of indicating the ex-factory price of commodities on packages to deal with the problem of marking of inflated prices by manufacturers on some commodities, in the shape of maximum retail prices;

(b) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have conducted any survey to see that excise duty concessions announced in the 1995-96 budget were being passed on to the consumers; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CIVIL SUPPLIES) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) the Ministry has constituted an Expert Committee to suggest the best method of declaring retail sale price on pre-packed commodities under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. The issue of indicating the 'ex-factory price' on the packages, is one of the alternatives being considered by the Committee.

(b) and (c) A sample study on certain select items conducted by the BICP reveals that, out of the units surveyed among the selected industries, in the case of 8 items the excise/customs duty concessions have been passed on fully, and in the case of 7 items they have been passed on partially, whereas in the case of 2 items the concessions have not been passed on.

Loss in BCCL

699. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "BCCL in a sorry condition" which appeared in Pioneer dated 7-11-95;

(b) if so, whether BCCL has been declared sick and referred to BIFR;

(c) if so, the total losses suffered by BCCL during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government to bring down the losses of BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) On 24.11.1995 BCCL has made a reference to BIFR proposing to declare the company as sick. However, no decision has so far been taken by BIFR to declare BCCL as sick company.

(c) The actual losses suffered by BCCL (before adjustment to Coal Price Regulation Account) during the past 3 years are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount
1992-93	370.26
1993-94	341.87
1994-95	560.70

The main reasons for losses in BCCL are:

(i) Unremunerative price both for raw coking coal as well as washed coal.

(ii) Heavy interest burden due to adverse debt equity ratio.

(iii) Surplus manpower.

(iv) Large proportion of the production in BCCL is obtained from under ground mines and due to difficult conditions the underground mines have very high cost of production.

(d) Following steps have been taken to bring down losses of BCCL:

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus manpower.

(ii) Mechanisation of coal loading in underground mines to improve production and productivity.

(iii) Improvement in availability and utilisation of heavy earth moving machinery by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and rehabilitation of equipment.

(iv) Improving capacity utilisation by providing for replacement equipment in open cast mines where the equipme have outlived their useful life and minimising idle hours through geari up routine and preventive mai tenance.

(v) Minimising controllable cost fixing ceiling for quality deductio demurrage and unloading penalty.

(vi) Deployment of labour on overtir and on Sundays and holidays.

Achievements of MPLADS

700. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDD SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR

Will the Minister of PLANNIN AND PROGRAMME IMPL MENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of assets have actua come up in the country out of the to money sent to the District Collectors a DMs since the inauguration of t MPLADS;

(b) the reasons for the very slow pa in which the scheme is bei implemented; and

(c) what steps will be taken to see th the assets under this scheme come fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF PLANNING AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIO (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA (a) A total of Rs.1157.8 crores has be released to the DCs/DMs since t launching of MPLAD Scheme. All t works taken up under MPLADS lead creation of durable assets. As per t partial information received from t Collectors, an amount of Rs.164.4 cror has actually been spent as on 31.7.95

(b) There have been several reaso for the slow pace of implementation.

1. In 1994-95 the funds were releas from November '94 to March '95.

2. Some of the Members of Parliame gave their recommendations late.